

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). ~~Device~~ A device for clamping the rim of a vehicle wheel, ~~in particular for mounting tires,~~ having a shelf, on which the rim may be deposited by one side, and having at least two clamping jaws, which are movable radially relative to the rim for clamping the rim bead adjacent to the shelf, wherein the clamping jaws ~~(12 to 15) comprise~~ are mounted on a carrier by means of slides guided with minimal friction and are arranged on supports extending from the slides to the shelf located above the carrier, said clamping jaws comprising contact faces ~~(20),~~ which cooperate with the axial outer side of the rim bead, and clamping claws ~~(21),~~ which may be pressed onto the rim bead radially from the exterior, and ~~in that~~ wherein a free space extends in the axial and radial direction leading away from the rim, on the back, turned away from the rim bead, of at least one clamping claw ~~(21).~~

Claim 2 (currently amended). ~~Device~~ The device according to

claim 1, comprising two pairs of clamping jaws ~~(12 to 15)~~, of which the paths of movement intersect, ~~in particular at right angles~~, and ~~in that~~ wherein a drive, which synchronously moves the clamping jaws ~~(12 to 15)~~ into a clamping position pressed against the rim of the vehicle wheel, is provided.

Claim 3 (currently amended). ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 2, wherein the clamping jaws ~~(12 to 15)~~ comprise clamping faces which may be pressed against the rim at two mutually spaced points.

Claim 4 (currently amended). ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein the ~~clamping jaws (12 to 15) are mounted on a cross shaped carrier (1) by means of slides (8 to 11), which are guided with minimal friction~~ is cross-shaped.

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (currently amended). ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein the drive comprises a gear unit ~~(27)~~ having a rotatable disc ~~(28)~~, of which the rotational axis extends in the ~~centre~~ center of the paths of movement of the clamping jaws ~~(12~~

~~to 15)~~ and at right angles to the paths of movement, each clamping jaw ~~(12 to 15)~~ being connected to the disc ~~(28)~~ in a movement-transferring manner by a rod ~~(29, 30)~~, the rod ~~(29, 30)~~ being attached to the clamping jaws ~~(12 to 15)~~ and the disc ~~(28)~~ by means of joints.

Claim 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (currently amended). ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein the clamping jaws ~~(12 to 15)~~ comprise a clamping claw ~~(21)~~, which overlaps the rim bead, and a shelf face ~~(20)~~, which is situated in the plane of the support ~~(35)~~.

Claim 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (currently amended). ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 9 15, wherein the flexible belts ~~(36)~~ are guided over first deflecting pulleys ~~(37)~~ arranged before the clamping jaws ~~(12, 13)~~ and are deflected thereon in the direction of the cross-shaped carrier ~~(1)~~ and are then guided over second deflecting pulleys ~~(38)~~ arranged between the shelf plane and the cross-shaped carrier ~~(1)~~ and are deflected thereby into a plane, which

is parallel to the shelf plane and contains the points for attaching the belts ~~(36)~~ to the cross-shaped carriers ~~(1)~~.

Claim 11 (currently amended). ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 9 15, wherein supports, on which the belts ~~(36)~~ rest, are arranged on the ~~cross-shaped~~ carrier ~~(1)~~ centrally between the clamping jaws ~~(12, 13)~~.

Claim 12 (currently amended). ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein a hydraulic or pneumatic cylinder ~~(22)~~, of which the cylinder housing ~~(23)~~ is connected to the support of one clamping jaw ~~(13)~~ and of which the piston rod ~~(25)~~ is connected to the support of the other clamping jaw ~~(12)~~, is arranged below the shelf plane between the supports of two opposing clamping jaws ~~(12, 13)~~.

Claim 13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (new). A device for clamping the rim of a vehicle wheel, having a shelf, on which the rim may be deposited by one side, and having at least two clamping jaws, which are movable radially via a drive relative to the rim for clamping the

rim bead adjacent to the shelf, wherein the clamping jaws comprise contact faces, which cooperate with the axial outer side of the rim bead, and clamping claws, which may be pressed onto the rim bead radially from the exterior, wherein a free space extends in the axial and radial direction leading away from the rim, on the back, turned away from the rim bead, of at least one clamping claw; and wherein the drive comprises a gear unit having a rotatable disc with a rotational axis extending in the center of the paths of movement of the clamping jaws and at right angles to the paths of movement, each clamping jaw being connected to the disc in a movement-transferring manner by a rod with an adjustable length, the rod being attached to the clamping jaws and the disc by means of joints.

Claim 15 (new). A device for clamping the rim of a vehicle wheel, having a shelf, on which the rim may be deposited by one side, and having at least two clamping jaws, which are movable radially relative to the rim for clamping the rim bead adjacent to the shelf, wherein the clamping jaws are mounted on a carrier by means of slides guided with minimal friction, said clamping jaws comprising contact faces, which cooperate with the axial outer side of the rim bead, and clamping claws, which may

be pressed onto the rim bead radially from the exterior, wherein a free space extends in the axial and radial direction leading away from the rim, on the back, turned away from the rim bead, of at least one clamping claw, and wherein the shelf is arranged between the clamping jaws and comprises at least two mutually spaced, parallel flexible belts guided on the at least two clamping jaws via deflecting pulleys and attached to the cross-shaped carrier by their ends.

Claim 16 (new). A device for clamping the rim of a vehicle wheel, having a shelf, on which the rim may be deposited by one side, and having at least two clamping jaws, which are movable radially relative to the rim for clamping the rim bead adjacent to the shelf, wherein the clamping jaws comprise contact faces, which cooperate with the axial outer side of the rim bead, and clamping claws, which may be pressed onto the rim bead radially from the exterior, wherein a centering arbor, which is movable perpendicularly to the shelf plane, is arranged centrally between the clamping jaws, and wherein a free space extends in the axial and radial direction leading away from the rim, on the back, turned away from the rim bead, of at least one clamping claw.